

## **NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS: Approved Musicals and Qualifying Leading Roles**

The National High School Theater Awards has reviewed the professional standards for identifying the definition of an *Approved Musical* and a *Qualifying Leading Role in an Approved Musical*. For the purpose of this program, these standards serve as a guide to create a minimum standard and criteria for what defines a Qualifying Leading Role in the category of Best Leading Actor/Actress in an amateur production of an Approved Musical.

### **1. Definition of an Approved Musical**

For the purpose of NHSMTA an Approved Musical is one that:

- Held performances in a Broadway theater, professional regional or touring theater outside of New York City prior to being made available for licensing to the regional, amateur or school theater circuit.
- Was originally conceived and produced for a core audience over eight years of age.
- Is officially available for a performance license by a high school from the licensing entity that manages such licenses on behalf of the rights holder for such musical.
- Your RAP officially licensed from the licensing entity that manages such licenses on behalf of the rights holder for such musical.

### **2. Definition of a Qualifying Leading Role**

For the purpose of NHSMTA, a Qualifying Leading Role in an Approved Musical is a role in which the character has a name, provides a vehicle for the actor or actress to demonstrate the ability to deliver the exceptional performance of a solo song and the ability to interact with other leading and featured performers in scenes and/or songs.

An Approved Musical may have not more than four (4) Qualifying Leading Roles. Such roles do not have to be evenly divided between genders.

**For Approved Musicals with both a book and libretto, a Qualifying Leading Role must, at minimum, include:**

- a. At least one solo, featured song
- b. Appearances in more than one scene with spoken dialogue with other leading or featured performers
- c. Appearances in both or all acts

**For Approved Musicals with a libretto only, a Qualifying Leading Role must, at minimum, include:**

- a. At least one solo, featured song
- b. At least one song featuring solo lines in dialogue with other leading or featured performers in the same song
- c. Appearances in both or all acts



### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS (NHSMTA):**

The National High School Musical Awards is a national celebration of outstanding student achievement in high school musical theatre that recognizes individual artistry in vocal, dance and acting performance.

NHSMTA impacts more than 50,000 students annually who participate in high school musical theatre competitions in their own region throughout the U.S. A Best Actor and best Actress from each competition is sent to New York for a week-long theatre intensive of coaching and rehearsals with industry professionals in preparation for their Broadway stage debut at the Jimmy Awards show where an esteemed panel of judges crowns the nation's top performers.

The 2014 Awards will take place at the Minskoff Theatre on Broadway (New York) on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Tucson high schools can compete in this competition for the first time in a new Southwest Regional Competition. Organized by Broadway in Tucson and Arts Express, jurors (professional arts educators and theatre artists) will review each participating high school musical. A selection of finalists will be selected who will travel to San Diego for a weekend in early June to participate in the Southwest Region finals. The winners of the Southwest Region will go on to compete in New York. All candidate's expenses for the regional and national competition are paid.

At this time, there are only two competing cities – San Diego and Tucson – in the regional finals. (In future years, other cities such as Phoenix and Albuquerque may also be submitting contestants. )

While the 2014 regional finals will take place in San Diego, they will be in Tucson for the 2015 competition.

High schools, especially those with fall musical productions, are encouraged to register for the competition as soon as possible. The entry fee is \$25.00 per school. A list of approved musicals and qualifying lead roles is available on the NHSMTA website: [www.nhsmta.com](http://www.nhsmta.com)